

CHANGE 6

two harmonicas and coins

Robert Blatt

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The work requires two performers, each with a set of ten coins and a diatonic harmonica. Each coin in a performer's set is of a different currency and/or monetary value, with both sets identical in terms of the different currencies and/or monetary values chosen. Each set is arranged from low to high by a coin's sounding pitch when spun on its edge. The two harmonicas are in the same key.

Starting together, one performer spins their coins on their edge from highest to lowest sounding pitch. The other performer spins their coins on their edge from lowest to highest sounding pitch. Coins are spun at a rate that maintains a continuous sound. In other words, a coin should not come to rest before its following coin has been spun.

Once the coins have stopped spinning, they are read as a score. Each of the ten coins in a set is mapped to the ten air channels on a harmonica, from the lowest pitched coin corresponding to the lowest sounding air channel to the highest pitched coin corresponding to the highest sounding air channel. The two sides of a coin, heads and tails, are mapped to blowing or drawing air through a coin's assigned air channel. Heads corresponds to blow and tails corresponds to draw.

The performer that spun their coins from highest to lowest sounding pitch reads their coins from highest to lowest sounding pitch, and likewise, the performer that spun their coins from lowest to highest sounding pitch reads their coins from lowest to highest sounding pitch. Each performer plays one note on the harmonica per coin, sustaining the note for the length of a breath, which is then followed by a rest, progressing coin by coin, at one's own, unrushed pace.

After both performers have finished, the above process may be repeated as many times as is desired, but with each repetition, the performers' ascending or descending roles are reversed.